

The Farmington Times.

VOL. 4

FARMINGTON, ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1920

NO. 9

KAHN'S, DESLOGE, MO.

Leading Store of the Lead Belt

On Wednesday, March 3d, we will place on sale, at a big sacrifice, all merchandise that is in any way soiled or damaged from the fire which occurred in the room adjoining. We must dispose of all these goods immediately and prepare our store for the Spring Showing.

SALE TO CONTINUE UNTIL SATURDAY, 8 P. M.

Extra help has been employed to handle the crowds.

KAHN'S

Adjourned Meeting of County Court

There was an adjourned meeting of the County Court last Friday, its special purpose being the selection of a County Highway Engineer and road overseers for the ensuing year. Owing to considerable contest being made in regard to road overseers in some of the districts, no appointments were made on Friday, and on Saturday Judge Jones was sick, so that the meeting was again adjourned until Monday, with the hope that Judge Jones would then be able to be present.

But on Monday Judge Jones was yet unable to be present, being still confined to his bed with influenza and kidney trouble, to which he is subject. It being particularly desirable that a full membership of the Court be present to make the necessary appointments of Road Overseers, Court again adjourned until next Monday, which will be the regular March term.

WEEKLY NEWS NOTES (By the County Agent.)

Mrs. C. C. Schuttler Attends State Farm Bureau Federation Meeting at Nevada, Mo.

Mrs. C. C. Schuttler, who is a member of the Executive Committee of the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation, attended the meeting of this Committee at Nevada, Mo., last week.

Mrs. Schuttler reports remarkable progress as being made by the State Federation. Already approximately a dozen counties have been organized under the plans of the State Federation, which call for a membership fee of not less than five dollars per year and memberships are to be taken for life. Several of these counties organized on a ten-dollar membership fee and have secured memberships ranging from 450 to 1800 per county.

The State Federation of Farm Bureaus is putting on the membership campaign in all the counties that desire to become members of the State organization. Practically every county which now has a Farm Bureau has signified its intention of joining the State Federation and have requested assistance in carrying on their membership campaign. From twenty to forty men are working in different counties in the State at the present time in carrying on these membership campaigns.

Under present plans, three campaigns are put on at the same time in as many counties. Each campaign lasts just a week and then the campaign workers are moved to other counties. As soon as the organized counties of the State are covered, it is the plan of the State organization to go into the counties that do not have Farm Bureaus and organize them under the new plan.

Surely the farmers of Missouri and other States are waking up to the possibilities to be found in a State and national Farm Bureau Federation. Big things are taking place for the benefit of the farmers. Practically every newspaper of the day is carrying articles about the work of the Farm Bureau Federations.

C. B. Denman Assisting in Farm Bureau Drive in St. Louis County

Mr. C. B. Denman, one of our local Farm Bureau workers, is assisting the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation in carrying on their membership drive in St. Louis county this week. It is the policy of the State Federation to use a number of farmers who have the big vision of Farm Bureau work to assist and direct local workers in the county in soliciting memberships. We are looking to St. Louis county to roll up a nice membership for this big work.

W. D. Styers to Make His Own Lime-Sulphur.

Mr. W. D. Styers, of Farmington, one of our best orchard men, has purchased a plant to use in manufacturing his own commercial lime-sulphur. He states that with the use of this plant he can manufacture his own spray materials much cheaper than they can be shipped in.

The last number of the Lyceum Course, which was to have appeared at the High School auditorium tomorrow night, has been postponed until a later date, on account of the inability of the Overseas Orchestra to appear on the date set.

Such a Scheme Seems Practical

The Times has been informed that the great mining companies of this county are considering plans for utilizing the many mountains of chat throughout that district in a manner that should result not alone to their benefit, but which it appears would result in benefit to this entire section, and probably to the entire State. The plan that is said to be under consideration is for the reduction of the chat into fertilizer, which purpose it would probably serve well, as those great piles are principally composed of limestone.

With proper machinery the reducing process could be easily accomplished, and the farmers could in this way be supplied with fertilizing material in which the h. c. l. should be largely eliminated. This plan would also serve to rid that district of the many enormous dumps of chat that have long been an eye-sore to that section of the country, and which in the past there has seemed to be no way of getting rid of. The Times would be pleased to see this proposed plan given a try-out, as there appears to be no reason why it should not prove to be profitable to all concerned.

Successfully Runs the Flu Gauntlet

Notwithstanding the general prevalence of influenza, both this year and last, State Hospital No. 4 has not suffered with such blight during either epidemic. There can be but one answer to such good fortune: Excellent management and the most careful possible attention to the more than 700 inmates of that institution, besides the several hundred employees there. This record is all the more exceptional for the reason that the many inmates there could hardly be expected to take any precautionary measures to avoid the flu germs.

Therefore to the competent and efficient management of that institution very large credit must be given for this unusual performance, which was made possible by the establishment and enforcement of a most rigid quarantine, together with the generous use, in the different wards, of anti-septics and germicides, together with the most thorough sanitation. This record goes to show what can be accomplished by timely and concerted action, even in the face of disease germs.

Both Parties Glad to Get Out

The proposed sale of the Burnette Meat Market, which was announced in The Times took place on Feb. 17th, really was not fully consummated, and before the invoicing of the stock was completed the deal was declared off. T. A. Williams, of DeSoto, was the intending buyer, but both he and the owner, Tom Burnette, had a case of "cold feet" before the trade was actually consummated, though Mr. Williams was actually in charge of the business for a day or two.

Things were fixed up amicably for both parties, Tom deciding that he really did not want to leave Farmington when the matter was put squarely up to him, and Mr. Williams had a "change of heart" in regard to moving to this city from DeSoto, to which place he has returned and resumed his former position in a meat shop with his brothers. Tom's many friends and patrons here will be pleased to know he has decided to stay here permanently, and that the proposed change in the business has been declared off.

LICENSED TO MARRY

Feb. 20—Noot Scott and Thelma Kelley, Flat River.
Feb. 20—Earl Raby and Leatha Jones, Flat River.
Feb. 23—Thos. J. Haynes, Doe Run, and Viola Hayes, St. Louis.
Feb. 23—Leroy J. Crawley, St. Louis, and Mathilda Merod, Belleville.
Feb. 26—Claude C. McCarty and Iva B. Morris, Bonne Terre.
Feb. 26—George E. Callahan and Nettie Moore, Flat River.

More Revenue Needed for County

Following up The Times' suggestion last week of the county's pressing need for more revenue, if we would keep our roads in repair and construct other good roads, another item has been brought to our attention that emphasizes the need of more revenue—the cost of caring for our poor and insane. The demand upon our pauper and insane fund has been gradually increasing, until last year it amounted to \$28,614. It is conservatively estimated that it will reach \$35,000 or more this year.

On account of the high cost of everything—food, clothing, fuel, etc.—our State Hospitals have been forced to advance the price of board and attention for patients, and this increases the cost to the county of its patients in these institutions. The same thing applies to our County Infirmary in caring for our indigent poor. We cannot, in this enlightened age, neglect these unfortunate ones. Humanity and Christian fellowship impel us to do the best we can for them and to make their lives as tolerable as possible. To do this the county must have more revenue.

There is only one way to get the revenue and that is by increasing the assessed valuation of property for taxes that is now assessed far below its true value. The County Board of Equalization, which meets in April to equalize the assessment for taxes for the current year, is expected to take up and dispose of this matter. We have already pointed out where the increase in the county's assessment may be justly and equitably made. Twenty-two million dollars is too low an assessment for a county like St. Francois, teeming with mineral wealth, which is being exploited by five or six wealthy mining industries, who figure their assets away up in the millions, and whose properties are assessed at only about one-sixth of their value. Thirty millions would be a reasonable assessment for this county, and we must have it and collect the taxes on it if we would meet our financial obligations and keep pace with the demands of progress and necessary improvements.

This Was Not Jesse James

The boys and girls of the High School basketball team went to Fredericktown Saturday, where they played teams at that place in the evening. Very fortunately, it now seems, most of the players and rooters returned home that night, but a party of five girls stopped at the Commercial hotel until Sunday, and the manner in which they were "worked" at that leading hotel is sufficient to kill all desire in the average person to wander from their own fireside. These five girls were jammed into a single room, with two beds and little else. They were not robbed that night, but the "touching up" process was applied the next morning when they paid their "bill and then a plenty." The five of them were "stung" to the tune of \$14 for that one cheap room, so the girls report.

The Times is not informed as to the name of the party who is thus "holding up" the trade at the Commercial hotel in Fredericktown, at this time, though we know it is not Jesse James. Jesse never learned his trade so proficiently as that. He would be a novice in comparison, as he held up only men, and usually took a chance. Under such management that hostelry should be capitalized at a million or two, which stock, once properly distributed throughout the community should be able to pay dividends that would cause the "raveling" wolf of h. c. l. to shy at that community. But under such conditions even grown-ups are no longer safe in visiting neighboring towns, much less young girls.

FLAT RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH BURNED WEDNESDAY

The Flat River Baptist church was completely destroyed by fire Wednesday afternoon. The church was being heated in preparation for a funeral and it is supposed that an overheated furnace was the cause of the fire.

Senator Reed as a National Delegate

Isn't there a little too much intolerance on the part of some of our Democratic friends against the probability or possibility of Senator Reed being sent as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention? Because of his persistent antagonistic attitude toward the League of Nations and the strident opposition he has manifested to many of the policies of the Wilson Administration, his popularity as a public man and representative Democrat has fallen far below par among a large majority of his former supporters and admirers, and there is a strong, outspoken opposition to even the suggestion that he be sent to the National Convention in any representative capacity. But in the absence of any formal and definite expression of the party on the League of Nations, is it wise to make Reed and his attitude an issue in the State Convention?

With the undisguised popular feeling against Senator Reed in this State there is not a possibility that he could be elected a Delegate-at-Large, an honor that would be accorded him if he were not so far and so arrogantly out of line with the party of his own State. But there are many who take the extreme position that even if his congressional district (Kansas City and Jackson county) where in spite of his attitude he seems to retain a modicum of at least personal popularity—should elect him as one of its district delegates, the State Convention ought to refuse to accept him as such. Would it be in conformity with the spirit of democracy for the convention to assume the role of dictating to the congressional districts whom they shall choose to represent them, thus infringing upon the rights of the local organizations?

Senator Reed's election as a delegate-at-large by the convention would be construed as an endorsement of his course by the party organization of the State, but not so his election by his district as one of its representatives. For a man of his national reputation and former standing in the party to be turned down as a delegate-at-large by a convention of Democrats of his own State would be a stinging rebuke that he would feel keenly, and we believe that he deserves such a rebuke, but that would be as far as it would be wise or politic for the convention to go.

We notice that Senator Frank H. Farris, an avowed aspirant for the Democratic nomination for Governor, takes this view, and no one can accuse Senator Farris of being a blind admirer and apologist for Senator Reed. On more than one occasion he has roundly denounced Senator Reed for his antagonism to the League of Nations, and last winter at the State Capitol led the bolt from the hill when Senator Reed was speaking before the Senators and Representatives against the League of Nations. We believe Senator Reed has been radically wrong in his attitude all along, but let us not allow our intolerance to carry us too far. When the Democratic National Convention lays down its platform perhaps Mr. Reed may find it so hot that he will have to don refrigerator slippers to keep his footing, or else get off.

St. Francois Hotel Will Change Hands

The lease of the St. Francois Hotel in this city, together with furniture and fixtures, has been sold by E. A. Sample, to Henry Ruth, of Fredericktown, who will take charge of the hotel on April 1st. Mr. Ruth is at present conducting a hotel in Fredericktown, and has had considerable experience in the business. In this field his opportunities for a greatly enlarged business will be at hand, if he will give to this city a public hostelry that she is entitled to. By establishing a truly first-class hotel, and working up more of a community spirit between the hotel and the community, much business could be secured than the St. Francois hotel has not been enjoying.

During their management of this hotel, of something more than a year, Mr. and Mrs. Sample have enjoyed a good business. They have also made many friends here during their brief management.

Mining Corporations Continue to Refuse to Pay Legitimate Taxes

The St. Joseph Lead Company has refused to pay its taxes on certain property assessed to it for 1919—5 tracts embracing 206 acres and 15 acres in survey 3099—claiming that it owns only the underground rights on the 206 acres in question, and for some reason, not clear to us, on the 15 acres in Survey 3099, although we believe it does not deny owning this land. The underground rights on which it refuses to pay taxes for 1919 are a part of the company's assets, as we find in its annual report for the year ending December 31, 1919, this item:

Ore reserves and mineral rights	\$17,723,144.78
Less reserve for depletion	5,738,352.62
Total	\$11,984,792.16

This refusal to pay taxes on underground rights—the most valuable part of the land—appears to be a new tax-dodging scheme of this wealthy company, whose assets are placed in its last annual report at \$30,476,711.72, and which paid to its shareholders in 1919 the neat little dividend of \$1,550,478.60, according to the president's statement.

The total assessed valuation of its property on which it refuses to pay taxes is \$387,980, the taxes on which amount to \$7,017.82. The year previous the lead companies of the county, acting collectively, refused to pay taxes assessed against them to the amount of \$100,000 in round figures. They got out an injunction against former County Collector Croke collecting that amount of their taxes. To our way of thinking, it was hardly a proper legal proceeding, as the County

Court—or possibly the County Board of Equalization—was the proper party against whom the companies should have instituted legal proceedings if they thought they had been over-assessed, or they should have brought suit against the County Court for restitution. But by some *hocus pocus* proceeding, in which former Collector Croke appeared as the defendant, they got their injunction upheld. The county was not represented at all.

This \$100,000 and a little more in taxes still stands on the county tax books as due and unpaid. We understand that the County Court is now having these unpaid taxes audited, by which we presume that an effort is to be made to collect them. Of course the lead companies will put up a stiff fight in the courts, if proceedings are commenced, to evade payment, but it seems to us that the county ought to win out, unless the lead companies can show that they have been unjustly assessed and taxed. With properties in the county worth at the least calculation \$80,000,000 or \$90,000,000, and assessed at only \$14,000,000, or only about one-sixth of their value, we don't see how any court of justice could give the lead companies a verdict.

It is unfortunate that we have in the county industries so averse to the general public interests and so powerful and wealthy that they can defy the constituted authorities, or force the county into expensive litigation, without any first cause, while other property holders are assessed at double and treble the amount that these lead companies are assessed at, and who pay their taxes without any protest.

Our Special Correspondent, Yerb Russet, Discusses Clubs

Talking about clubs, I say there is lots of them now a days, and I am for 'em, good, bad or different. I respect them, even the club that set in the corner of the school room out in the district many years ago. A club is a mighty power now and I am proud that we have so many in our town. The Forenity and Mundy are great institutions here and are constantly doing great good; and just think of the Parent-teachers and what they are doing, every one of them good cooks, too, and you can smell their soup from the High School to the low school.

Our men are getting wise on this club business, too, they are organizing for keeps, they do not propose to be outdone by the women, and they are right. We are delighted to inform you that the pushing men of the West End met last Saturday night at the store of Net Buchanan and organized the Gridiron Club for the purpose of elevating the members and the neighborhood generally. While Mr. Buchanan's store lies just one inch to the west of the town limits, this may still be considered in the main extremity, a town club. The Charter members wanted to make Mr. J. C. Alexander president of this club, not only because of his right of primogeniture, but because he was a historic and well advertised man, and was and still is a leader of men in thought and action. But Mr. Alexander would not have it that way. So he rose up very strait, put his heels together and grasped the lapels of his coat with his hands and says: "Fellers, I appreciate your splendid appreciation of my worth and I know that every thing you say is true, but we are meeting in the store of Mr. Buchanan, and I want to tell

you that he is a big man, too. More than that, he is a near relative of the man who was once president of this great country of ours and I think he should be elected president of this great body." It was so ordered without a dissent. Thereupon Mr. Alexander was elected to the office of Keeper of the Records, and Clarence Alexander was made Chairman of the Exchequer, he to act without bond; charter members to pay 5 cents monthly dues. About this time Stephen Burks wandered in to get a soda and some balony sausage, because he could not go East on account of the flu and Kerfew. The Club then decided that in as much as its purpose was both literary and scientific, they would add a juvenile division to their curriculum. Stephen was accordingly elected Keeper of the Great Seal and Supervisor of the Heating Stove. On motion, the Secretary of Agriculture was made honorary member, also the County Farm Adviser as long as he demonstrated that he knows anything. Green Downing made application for membership but in as much as charges of unfaithful school attendance and other blemishes were against him, his case was continued to the next meeting. We forgot to mention that Ed. Spurgeon was made vice-chairman and Uncle Sam Vance, Chaplin, Reed, Bory and Jonsen were also mentioned for honorary members, but after a brief discussion it was unanimously agreed that they would not have any cranks or backsliders touching their club, and besides those fellers did not class. The subject of the next meeting for discussion is Intensive and Extensive Farming.

YERB RUSSET.

Misses Helen Driskill and Lois Wescoat returned from their home in Oran last Sunday, where they had been recuperating from influenza, to resume their High School work here.

The Fredericktown boys' basketball team will play the local team here tonight. Fredericktown was defeated by a small score a few weeks ago and a tight game is expected.